

## L E T T E R

TO THE

Reverend Mr. DOUGLAS,

OCCASIONED

By his Vindication of *MILTON*

To which are subjoin'd

Several curious original LETTERS from the Authors  
of the *UNIVERSAL HISTORY*, Mr. AINSWORTH,  
Mr. MACLAURIN, &c.By *WILLIAM LAURENCE**Quem pater potius pater quam mater**Corpora magnanimita satis est prope deo  
Pugna sum fuit, quam pater huius habet.**Præuli Clementia  
Juris Rigori.**GROTII Adamus Esch*

L O N D O N :

Printed for W. OWEN, at *Horn & Head* near *Temple-Bar*,  
MDCCLI.

L E T T E R

TO THE

Reverend Mr. Douglas

Occasioned

By his Vindication of Milton

To which are appended  
General queries original letters from the author  
of the Universal History, &c.  
J. Macmillan & Co.





TO THE  
Reverend Mr. *Douglas*.

S I R,

**C**Andour and Tenderneſs are in any Relation, and on all Occaſions, eminently amiable ; but when they are found in an Adverſary, and found ſo prevalent as to over-power that Zeal which his Cauſe excites, and that Heat which naturally increaſes in the Proſecution of Argument, and which may be in a great Meaſure juſtify'd by the Love of Truth, they certainly appear with particular Advantages ; and it is impoſſible not to envy thoſe who poſſeſs the Friendſhip of him, whom it is even ſome Degree of good Fortune to have known as an Enemy.

I will not ſo far diſſemble my Weakneſs, or my Fault, as not to confeſs that my Wiſh was to have paſſed undetected ; but ſince it has been my Fortune to fail in my original Deſign, to have the ſuppoſitious Paſſages which I have inſerted in my Quotations made known to the World, and the Shade which began to gather on the Splendour of *Milton* totally diſperſed, I cannot but count it an Alleviation of my Pain, that I have been defeated by a Man who knows how to uſe Advantages with ſo much Moderation, and can enjoy the Honour of Conqueſt without the Inſolence of Triumph.

It was one of the Maxims of the *Spartans*, not to preſs upon a flying Army, and therefore their Enemies were always ready to quit the Field, becauſe they knew the Danger was only in op- poſing. The Civility with which you have thought proper to treat me, when you had incontestable Superiority, has inclined

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me to make your Victory complete, without any further Struggle, and not only publicly to acknowledge the Truth of the Charge which you have hitherto advanced, but to confess, without the least Dissimulation, Subterfuge, or Concealment, every other Interpolation I have made in those Authors, which you have not yet had Opportunity to examine.

On the Sincerity and Punctuality of this Confession, I am willing to depend for all the future Regard of Mankind, and cannot but indulge some Hopes, that they whom my Offence has alienated from me, may, by this Instance of Ingenuity and Repentance, be propitiated and reconciled. Whatever be the Event, I shall at least have done all that can be done in Reparation of my former Injuries to *Milton*, to Truth, and to Mankind, and entreat that those who shall continue implacable, will examine their own Hearts whether they have not committed equal Crimes without equal Proofs of Sorrow, or equal Acts of Attonement\*.

#### PASSAGES interpolated in MASENIUS.

The Word *Pandæmonium* in the marginal Notes of Book I. Essay Page 10.

#### CITATION VI. Essay, Page 38.

Adnuit ipsa Dolo, malumque (heu ! longa dolendi  
Materies ! & triste nefas !) vefana momordit  
Tanti ignara mali. Mora nulla, solutus Avernus  
Exspuit infandas acies ; fractumque remugit  
Divulsa compage solum : Nabathæa receptum  
Regna dedere sonum, Pharioque in littore Nereus  
Territus erubuit : Simul adgemuere dolentes  
Hesperiae valles, Libyæque calentis agene  
Exarsere procul. Stupefacta Lycaonis urfa  
Constitit, & pavido riguit glacialis in axe :  
Omnis cardinibus submotus inhorruit orbis ;  
*Angeli hoc efficiunt, cœlestia jussa secuti.*

\* The Interpolations are distinguished by *Italick* Characters.



## CITATION VII. Essay, Page 41.

Illa quidem fugiens, sparsis per terga capillis,  
 Ora rigat lacrimis, & cœlum questibus implet :  
 Talia voce rogans. Magni Deus arbiter orbis !  
 Qui rerum momenta tenes, solusque futuri  
 Præscius, elapsique memor ; quem terra potentem  
 Imperio, cœlique tremunt ; quem Dite superbus  
 Horrescit Phlegethon, pavidoque furore veretur :  
 En ! Styge crudeli premimur. Laxantur hiatus  
 Tartarei, dirusque solo dominatur Avernus,  
 Infernique canes populantur cuncta creata,  
 Et manes violant superos : discrimina rerum  
 Sustulit Antitheus, Divumque oppressit honorem.  
 Respice Sarcœtheam : nimis, heu ! decepta momordit  
 Infaustas epulas, nosque omnes prodidit hosti.

## CITATION VIII. Essay, Page 42, the whole Passage.

*Quadrupedi pugnat quadrupes, volucrique volucris ;  
 Et piscis cum pisce ferox hostilibus armis  
 Prælia sæva gerit : jam pristina pabula spernunt,  
 Jam tondere piget viridantes gramine campos :  
 Alterum & alterius vivunt animalia letbo :  
 Prisca nec in gentem humanam reverentia durat ;  
 Sed fugiunt, vel si sciterant fera bella minantur  
 Fronte truci, torvosque oculos jaculantur in illam.*

## CITATION IX. Essay, Page 43.

*Natibus antiquis numerantur lumine cassis,  
 Tiresias, Phineus, Thamyrisque ; & magnus Homerus.*

The above Passage stands thus in *Masenius*, in one Line.

Tiresias cœcus, Thamyrisque, & Daphnis, Homerus.

N. B.

N. B. The Verse now cited is in *Masenius's Poems*, but not in the *Sarcotis*.

CITATION X. Essay, Page 46.

In medio, turmas inter provectus ovantes  
Cernitur Antitheus, reliquis hic altior unus  
Eminet, & circum vulgus despectat inane :  
Frons nebulis obscura latet, torvumque furorem  
Diffimulat, fidæ tectus velamine noctis :  
*Perfimilis turri præcelsæ, aut montibus altis*  
*Antiquæ cedro, nudatæ frondis honore.*

Passages interpolated in *Grotius*.

CITATION I. Essay, Page 55.

Sacri Tonantis hostis, exsul patriæ  
Cœlestis, adsum ; Tartari tristem specum  
Fugiens, & atram noctis æternæ plagam.  
Hac spe, quod unum maximum fugio malum,  
Superos videbo. Fallor ? an certé meo  
Concussa Tellus tota trepidat pondere ?  
*Quid dico ? Tellus ? Orcus & pedibus tremis.*

CITATION II. Essay, Page 58. the whole Passage.

*Nam, me iudice,*  
*Regnare dignum est ambitu, etsi in Tartaro :*  
*Alto præesse Tartaro siquidem juvat,*  
*Cælis quam in ipsis servi obire munia.*

CITATION IV. Essay, Page 61. the whole Passage.

*Innominata quæque nominibus suis,*  
*Libet vocare propriis vocabulis.*

CITATION



## CITATION V. Essay, Page 63.

Terrestriſtris orbis rector ! & princeps freti !  
 Cœli ſolique ſoboles ! ætherium genus !  
 Adame ! dextram liceat amplecti tuam !

CITATION VI. Essay, *ibid.*

Quod illud animal, tramite obliquo means,  
 Ad me volutum flexili ſerpit via ?  
 Sibila retorquet ora ſetofum caput  
 Trifidamque linguam vibrat : oculi ardent duo,  
 Carbunculorum luce certantes rubrâ.

## CITATION VII. Essay, Page 65. the whole Paſſage.

————— *Nata Deo ! atque homine ſata !*  
*Regina mundi ! eademque interitus inſcîa !*  
*Cunctis colenda !* —————

## CITATION VIII. Essay, Page 66. the whole Paſſage.

*Rationis etenim omnino paritas exigit,*  
*Ego bruta quando beſtia evaſi loquens ;*  
*Ex homine, qualis ante, te fieri Deam.*

CITATION IX. Essay, *ibid.*

Per ſancta thalami ſacra, per juſ nominis  
 Quodcumque noſtri : ſive me natam vocas,  
 Ex te creatam ; ſive communi patre  
 Ortam, Sororem ; ſive potius conjugem :  
 Caſſam, oro, dulci luminis jubare tui  
 Ne me relinquo : nunc tuo auxilio eſt opus,  
 Cum verſa ſors eſt. Unicum lapſæ mihi  
 Firmamen, unam ſpem gravi adſictæ malo,  
 Te mihi reſerva, dum licet: Mortalium.

Ne

Ne tota soboles pereat unius nece :  
*Tibi nam relicta, quod petam ? aut ævum exigam ?*

CITATION X. Essay, Page 67. the whole Passage.

*Tu namque soli numini contrarius,  
 Minus es nocivus ; ast ego nocentior,  
 ( Adeoque misera magis, quippe miseriæ comes  
 Origoque scelus est, lurida mater mali ! )  
 Deumque læsi scelere, teque, Vir ! simul.*

CITATION XI. Essay, Page 68. the whole Passage.

*Quod comedo, poto, gigno, diris subjacet.*

Interpolation in Ramsay.

CITATION VI. Essay, Page 88.

*O Judex ! nova me facies inopinaque terret ;  
 Me maculæ turpes, nudæque in corpore sordes,  
 Et cruciant duris exercita pectora pœnis :  
 Me ferus horror agit. Mihi non vernantia prata,  
 Non vitrei fontes, cœli non aurea templa,  
 Nec sunt grata mihi sub utroque jacentia sole :  
 Judicis ora Dei sic terrent, lancinat ægrum  
 Sic pectus mihi noxæ. O si mihi abrumpere vitam,  
 Et detur pœnam quovis evadere letho !  
 Ipsa parens utinam mihi Tellus ima dehiscat !  
 Ad piceas trudarque umbras, atque infera regna !  
 Pallentes umbras Erebi, noctemque profundam !  
 Montibus aut premar injectis, cœlique ruinâ !  
 Ante tuos vultus, tua quam flammantiaque ora  
 Suspiciam, caput objectem & cœlestibus armis !*

Inter-



## Interpolations in Staphorsius.

## CITATION III. Essay, P. 104.

Fœdus in humanis fragili quod sanctius ævo !  
 Firmius & melius, quod magnificentius, ac quam  
 Conjugii, sponsi sponsæque jugalia sacra !  
*Auspice te, fugiens alieni subcuba lecti,*  
*Dira libido hominum tota de gente repulsa est :*  
*Ac tantum gregibus pecudum ratione carentum*  
*Imperat, & sine lege tori furibunda vagatur.*  
*Auspice te, quam jura probant, rectumque, piumque,*  
*Filius atque pater, fraterque innotuit ; & quot*  
*Vincula vicini sociarunt sanguinis, a te*  
*Nominibus didicere suam distinguere gentem.*

## CITATION VI. Essay, P. 109.

Cœlestes animæ ! sublimia templa tenentes,  
 Laudibus adcumulate Deum super omnia magnum ! —  
 Tu quoque nunc animi vis tota ac maxima nostri !  
 Tota tui in Domini grates dissolvere laudes !  
*Aurorâ redeunte novâ, redeuntibus umbris.*  
 Immensum ! augustum ! verum ! inscrutabile Numen !  
 Summe Deus ! sobolesque Dei ! consorsque duorum,  
 Spiritus ! æternas retines, bone rector ! habenas,  
 Per mare, per terras, cœlosque, atque unus Jhova  
 Existens, celebrabo tuas, memorique sonabo  
 Organico plectro laudes. Te pectore amabo,  
*Te primum, & medium, & summum, sed sine carentem,*  
 O miris mirande modis ! ter maxime rerum !  
 Collustrat terras dum lumine Titan Eoo !

Interpolation in Fox. Essay, P. 116.

Tu Psychephone

Hypocrisis esto, hoc sub Francisci pallio.

Tu Thanate, Martyromastix re & nomine fies.

Alter'd thus,

Tu Psychephone!

Hypocrisis esto; hoc sub Francisci pallio,

*Quo tutò tecti sese credunt emori.*

Interpolation in Quintianus. Essay P. 117.

*Mic.* Cur huc procaci veneris cursu refer?

Manere si quis in sua potest domo,

Habitare numquam curet alienas domos.

*Luc.* Quis non, relictâ Tartari nigri domo,

Veniret? Illic summa tenebrarum lues,

Ubi pedor ingens redolet extremum fitum.

Hic autem amoena regna, & dulcis quies;

Ubi ferenus ridet æternum dies.

Mutare facile \* est pondus immensum levi,

*Summos dolores maximisque gaudiis.*

Interpolation in Beza. Essay, P. 119.

Stygemque testor, & profunda Tartari,

Nisi impediret livor, & queis prosequor

Odia supremum numen, atque hominum genus,

Pietate motus hinc patris, & hinc filii,

Possẽm parenti condolere & filio,

*Quasi exuissẽm omnẽ malitiã ex pectore.*

Interpolation in Fletcher. Essay P. 124.

Nec tamen æternos obliti (abstiste timere)

Umquam animos, fessique ingentes ponimus iras.

\* For *Facile*, the Word *Volupe* was substituted in the Essay.

Nec



Nec fas ; non sic deficimus, nec talia tecum  
 Gessimus, in cœlos olim tua signa secuti.  
 Est hic, est vitæ & magni contemptor Olympi,  
 Quique oblatam animus lucis nunc respuat aulam,  
 Et domiti tantum placeat cui Regia cœli.  
 Ne dubitâ, numquam fractis hæc pectora, numquam  
 Deficient animis : prius ille ingentia cœli  
 Atria, desertosque æternæ lucis alumnos  
 Destituens, Erebum admigret noctemque profundam,  
 Et Stygiis mutet radiantia lumina flammis.  
*In promptu caussa est : Superest invicta voluntas,  
 Immortale odium, vindictæ & sæva cupido.*

Interpolations in Taubman. Essay P. 132.

Tunc, ait, imperio regere omnia solus ; & una  
 Filius iste tuus, qui se tibi subjicit ultro,  
 Ac genibus minor ad terram prosternit, & offert  
 Nescio quos toties animi servilis honores ?  
 Et tamen æterni proles æterna Jehovah  
 Audit ab ætherea luteaque propagine mundi.  
*(Scilicet hunc natum dixisti, cuncta regentem ;  
 Cœlitibus regem cunctis, dominumque supremum)*  
 Huic ego sim supplex ? ego ? quo præstantior alter  
 Non agit in superis. Mihi jus dabit ille, suum qui  
 Dat caput alterius sub jus & vincula legum ?  
 Semideus reget iste polos ? reget avia terræ ?  
 Me pressum leviori manu fortuna tenebit ?  
*Et cogar æternum duplici servire tyranno ?*  
 Haud ita. Tu solus non polles fortibus ausis.  
 Non ego sic cecidi, nec sic mea fata premuntur,  
 Ut nequeam relevare caput, colloque superbum  
 Excutere imperium. Mihi si mea dextra favebit,  
 Audeo totius mihi jus promittere mundi.

Essay, P. 152.

*Throni, dominationes, principatus, virtutes, potestates*, is said to be a Line borrowed by MILTON from the Title-page of HEYWOOD's *Hierarchy of Angels*. But there are more Words in Heywood's Title; and, according to his own Arrangement of his Subjects, they should be read thus.—*Seraphim, Cherubim, Throni, Potestates, Angeli, Archangeli, Principatus, Dominationes*.

These are my Interpolations, minutely traced without any Arts of Evasion. Whether from the Passages that yet remain, any Reader will be convinced of my general Assertion, and allow, that *Milton* had Recourse for Assistance to any of the Authors whose names I have mentioned, I shall not now be very diligent to enquire, for I had no particular Pleasure in subverting the Reputation of *Milton*, which I had myself once endeavour'd to exalt;\* and of which, the Foundation had always remained untouch'd by me, had not my Credit and my Interest been blasted, or thought to be blasted, by the Shade which it cast from its boundless Elevation.

About ten Years ago, I published an Edition of Dr. *Johnston's* Translation of the *Psalms*, and having procured from the

\* *Virorum maximus... JOANNES MILTONUS. -- Poeta celeberrimus... non Angliæ modo, soli natalis, verum generis humani ornamentum... cujus eximius liber, Anglicanis versibus conscriptus, vulgo PARADISUS AMISSUS, immortalis illud ingenii monumentum, cum ipsa ferè æternitate perennaturum est opus! -- Hujus memoriam Anglorum primus, post tantum, proh dolor! ab tanti excessu poetæ intervallum, statua eleganti in loco celeberrimo, cænobio Westmonasteriensi, posita, regum, principum, antistitem, illustriumque Angliæ virorum cæmeterio, vir ornatissimus, Gulielmus Benson prosecutus est.*

*Postarum Scotorum Musa Sacra in præfatione, Edinb. 1739.*

A Character, as high and honourable as ever was bestowed upon him by the most sanguine of his Admirers! And as this was my cool and sincere Opinion of that wonderful Man formerly, so I declare it to be the same still, and ever will be, notwithstanding all Appearances to the Contrary, occasioned merely by Passion and Resentment; which appear, however, by the Postscript to the Essay, to be so far from extending to the Posterity of *Milton*, that I recommended his only remaining Descendent, in the warmest terms, to the Publick.

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General Assembly of the Church of *Scotland*, a Recommendation of its Use to the lower Classes of Grammar-Schools, into which I had begun to introduce it, though not without much Controversy and Opposition; I thought it likely, that I should, by annual Publications, improve my little Fortune, and be enabled to support myself in Freedom from the Miseries of Indigence. But Mr. *Pope*, in his Malevolence to Mr. *Benson*, who had distinguished himself by his Fondness for the same Version, destroyed all my Hopes by a Distich, in which he places *Johnston* in a contemptuous Comparison with the Author of *Paradise Lost*.†

From this Time, all my Praises of *Johnston* became ridiculous, and I was censured with great Freedom, for forcing upon the Schools, an author whom Mr. *Pope* had mentioned only as a Foil to a better Poet. On this Occasion, it was natural not to be pleased, and my Resentment seeking to discharge itself some where, was unhappily directed against *Milton*. I resolved to attack his Fame, and found some Passages in cursory Reading, which gave me Hopes of stigmatising him as a Plagiary. The farther I carried my Search, the more eager I grew for the Dis-

† On two unequal Crutches prop'd he \* came,  
MILTON's on this, on that *One* JOHNSTON's Name.

Dunciad. Book IV.

\* *Benson*] This Man endeavoured to raise himself to Fame, by erecting Monuments, striking Coins, and procuring Translations of *Milton*; and afterwards by a great Passion for *Arthur Johnston*, a Scots Physician's Version of the Psalms, of which he printed many fine Editions. *Notes on the Dunciad*.

No fewer than six different Editions of that useful and valuable Book, two in Quarto, two in Octavo, and two in a lesser Form, now lie like Lumber in the Hand of Mr. *Vaillant*, Bookseller, the Effects of Mr. *Pope*'s ill-natured Criticism.

One of these Editions in Quarto, illustrated with an Interpretation and Notes, after the Manner of the Classick Authors in *usum Delphini*, was by the worthy Editor, Anno 1749, inscribed to his Royal Highness Prince *George*, as a proper Book for his Instruction in Principles of Piety, as well as Knowledge of the *Latin* Tongue, when he should arrive at due Maturity of Age. To restore this Book to Credit was the Cause that induced me to engage in this disagreeable Controversy, rather than any Design to depreciate the just Reputation of *Milton*.

covery

covery, and the more my Hypothesis was opposed, the more I was heated with Rage. The Consequence of my blind Passion, I need not relate ; it has by your Detection, become apparent to Mankind.. Nor do I mention this Provocation as adequate to the Fury which I have shown, but as a Cause of Anger less shameful and reproachful than fractious Malice, personal Envy, or national Jealousy.

But for the Violation of Truth, I offer no Excuse, because I well know, that nothing can excuse it. Nor will I aggravate my Crime, by disingenuous Palliations. I confess it, I repent it, and resolve, that my first Offence shall be my last. More I cannot perform, and more therefore cannot be required. I intreat the Pardon of all Men, whom I have by any Means induced, to support, to countenance, or patronise my Frauds, of which I think myself oblig'd to declare, that not one of my Friends was conscious. I hope to deserve, by better Conduct and more useful Undertakings, that Patronage which I have obtained from the most illustrious and venerable Names by Misrepresentation and Delusion, and to appear hereafter in such a Character, as shall give you no Reason to regret that your Name is frequently mentioned with that of,

*Reverend Sir,*

*Dec. 20, 1750.*

*Your most humble Servant,*

**WILLIAM LAUDER.**

**TESTI-**



## TESTIMONIES concerning Mr. LAUDER.

Edinb. May 22, 1734.

**T**H E S E are certifying, that Mr. *William Lauder* past his Course at this University, to the general Satisfaction of these Masters, under whom he studied. That he has apply'd himself particularly to the Study of Humanity\* ever since. That for several Years past, he has taught with Success, Students in the Humanity Class, who were recommended to him by the Professor thereof. And lastly, has taught that Class itself, during the Indisposition, and since the Death of its late Professor: And therefore is, in our Opinion, a fit Person to teach Humanity in any School or College whatever.

J. Gowdie, S. S. T. P.

Matt. Craufurd, S. S. T. &amp; Hist. Ec.

Pr. Reg.

William Scott, P. P.

Robert Stuart, Ph. Nat. Pr.

Col. Drummond, L. G. &amp; P. Pr.

Col. Mac Laurin, Math. P. Edin.

Al. Bayne, J. P.

Charles Macky, Hist. P.

Alex. Morro, Anat. P.

William Dawson, L. H. P.

A LETTER from the Reverend Mr. Patrick Cuming, one of the Ministers of Edinburgh, and Regius Professor of Church History in the University there, to the Rev. Mr. Blair, Rector of the Grammar-School at Dundee.

D. B.

**U**PON a publick Advertisement in the News Papers, of the Vacancy of a Master's Place in your School, Mr. *William Lauder*, a Friend of mine, proposes to set up for a Candidate, and goes over for that Purpose. He has long taught the Latin with great Approbation in this Place, and given such

\* So the Latin Tongue is call'd in Scotland, from the Latin Phrase, *Classis humaniorum Literarum*, the Class or Form where that Language is taught.

Proofs

Proofs of his Mastery in that Language, that the best Judges do upon all Occasions recommend him as one who is qualified in the best Manner. He has taught young Boys and young Gentlemen, with great Success; nor did I ever hear of any Complaint of him from either Parents or Children. I beg Leave to recommend him to you as my Friend; what Friendship you show him, I will look upon as a very great Act of Friendship to me, of which he and I will retain the most grateful Sense, if he is so happy as to be prefer'd. I persuade myself, you will find him ready at all Times to be advised by you, as I have found him. *Indeed if Justice had been done him, he should long ago have been advanced for his Merit.* I ever am,

D. B.

*Your most Affectionate*

Edin. Nov. 13, 1742.

*Humble Servant,*

PATRICK CUMING.

*A LETTER from Mr. Mac-Laurin, late Professor of Mathematics in the University of Edinburgh, to the Rev. Mr. George Blair, Rector of the Grammar-School at Dundee.*

S I R,

**T**H O' unacquainted, I take the Liberty of giving you this Trouble, from the Desire I have always had to see Mr. *Lauder* provided in a Manner suited to his Talent. I know him to have made uncommon Progress in classical Learning, to have taught it with Success, and never heard there could be any Complaint against his Method of teaching. I am, indeed, a Stranger to the Reasons of his want of Success on former Occasions. But after conversing with him, I have Ground to hope, that he will be always advised by you, for whom he professes great Esteem, and will be useful under you. I am,

S I R,

College of Edinburgh,  
Nov. 30, 1742.*Your most obedient humble Servant,*

COLIN MAC-LAURIN.



A LETTER from the Authors of the Universal History to Mr.  
LAUDER.

Learned SIR,

London, August 12, 1741.

WHEN we so gladly took the first Opportunity of reviving the Memory and Merit of your incomparable *Johnston*, in the first Volume of our *Universal History*, our chief Aim was to excite some generous *Mecenas* to favour the World with a new Edition of a Poem which we had long since beheld with no small Concern, buried, as it were, by some unaccountable Fatality, into an almost total Oblivion; whilst others of that Kind, none of them superior, many vastly inferior to it, rode, unjustly, as we thought, triumphant over his silent Grave. And it is with great Satisfaction that we have seen our Endeavours so happily crown'd in the Edition you soon after gave of it at *Edinburgh*, in your learned and judicious Vindication of your excellent Author, and more particularly by the just Deference which your learned and pious Convocation has been pleased to pay to that *admirable Version*.

We have had since then, the Pleasure to see your worthy Example followed here, in the several beautiful Editions of the Honourable Mr. Auditor *Benson*, with his critical Notes upon the Work.

It was, indeed, the farthest from our Thoughts, to enter into the Merit of the Controversy between your two great Poets, *Johnston* and *Buchanan*; neither were we so partial to either as not to see, that each had their Shades as well as Lights; so that, if the Latter has been more happy in the Choice and Variety of his Metre, it is as plain, that he has given his poetic Genius such an unlimited Scope, as has in many Cases quite disfigured the peculiar and inimitable Beauty, Simplicity, and Energy of the Original, which the former, by a more close and judicious Version, has constantly, and surprisngly display'd. Something like this we ventur'd to hint in our Note upon these two noble Versions; to have said more, would have been inconsistent with our designed Brevity.

C

We

We have likewise since seen what your Opponent has writ in Praise of the one, and Derogation of the other, and think you have sufficiently confuted him, and with Respect to us, he has been so far from giving us any Cause to retract what we had formerly said, that it has administered an Occasion to us of vindicating it, as we have lately done by some critical Notes on your excellent *Johnston*, which we communicated soon after to Mr. *A. B.* who was pleas'd to give them a Place in his last Edition of him, and which we doubt not you have seen long ago. How they have been relished among you we know not, but with us they have been thought sufficient to prove what we have advanced, as well as to direct the attentive Reader, to discover new Instances of your Author's Exactness and Elegance, in every Page, if not almost in every Line.

We gratefully accept of the Books, and kind Complements you were pleas'd to transmit to us by Mr. *Straban*, and had long since return'd you our Thanks, but for the many Avocations which the great Work you know us to be engaged in doth of Necessity bring upon us; obliging us, or some at least of our Society, to make from Time to Time an Excursion to one or other of our two learned Universities, and consulting them upon the best Method of carrying on this Work to the greatest Advantage to the Public. This has been some considerable Part of our Employment for these twelve Months past; and we flatter ourselves, that we have, with their Assistance and Approbation, made such considerable Improvements on our original Plan, as will scarcely fail of being acceptable to the learned World. They will shortly appear in print, to convince the World that we have not been idle, tho' this Sixth Volume is like to appear somewhat later in the Year than was usual with our former ones. We shall take the Liberty to transmit some Copies of our new Plan to you as soon as they are printed. All we have left to wish, with respect to your excellent Countryman and his Version is, that it may always meet with such powerful and impartial Advocates, and that it may be as much esteemed by all candid Judges, as it is by,

*Learned S I R,*

*Your sincere Well-wishers and humble Servants,*

*The A U T H O R S of the Universal History.*

*A*



*A LETTER from the Learned Mr. ROBERT AINSWORTH, Author of the Latin and English Dictionary, to Mr. LAUDER.*

*Learned and worthy S I R,*

**T**H E S E wait on you to thank you for the Honour you have done a Person, equally unknown as undeserving, in your valuable Present, which I did not receive till several Weeks after it was sent : And since I received it, my Eyes have been so bad, and my Hand so unstable, that I have been forced to defer my Duty, as desirous to thank you with my own Hand. I congratulate to your Nation the just Honour ascribed to it by its Neighbours and more distant Countries, in having bred two such excellent Poets as your *Buchanan* and *Johnston*, whom to name is to commend ; but am concerned for their Honour at home, who being committed together, seem to me both to suffer a Diminution, whilst Justice is done to neither. But at the same Time I highly approve your Nation's Piety in bringing into your Schools sacred instead of profane Poesy, and heartily wish that ours, and all Christian Governments, would follow your Example herein. If a Mixture of *Utile Dulci* be the best Composition in Poetry, (which is too evident to need the Judgment of the nicest Critic in the Art) surely the *Utile* so transcendently excels in the sacred Hymns, that a Christian must deny his Name that doth not acknowledge it : And if the *Dulce* seem not equally to excel, it must be from a vitiated Taste of those who read them in the Original, and in others at Second-Hand from Translations. For the Manner of writing in the East and West are widely distant, and which to a Paraphrast must render his Task exceeding difficult, as requiring a perfect Knowledge in two Languages, wherein the Idioms and Graces of Speech, caused by the Diversity of their Religion, Laws, Customs, &c. are as remote as the Inhabitants, wherein notwithstanding your Poets have succeeded to Admiration.

Your main Contest seems to me, when stript of Persons, whether the Easy or Sublime in Poesy be preferable ; if so,

*Non opis est nostræ tantam componere litem :*

C 2

nor

nor think I it in your Case material to be decided. Both these have their particular Excellencies and Graces, and Youth ought to be taught wherein (which the Matter ought chiefly to determine) the one hath place, and where the other. Now since the Hymns of *David*, *Moses*, and other divine Poets intermixt with them, (infinitely excelling those of *Callimachus*, *Alcæus*, *Sappho*, *Anacreon*, and all others) abound in both these Virtues, and both your Poets are acknowledged to be very happy in paraphrasing them, it is my Opinion both of them, without giving the least Preference to either, should be read alternately in your Schools, as the Tutor shall direct. Pardon, learned Sir, this Scribble to my Age and Weakness, both which are very great, and command me wherein I may serve you, as,

Learned S I R,

Your obliged, thankful, and obedient Servant,

Spitalfields, Sept. 1741.

ROBERT AINSWORTH,

A LETTER from the Authors of the Universal History to Mr. Auditor BENSON.

S I R,

IT is with no small Pleasure that we see Dr. *Johnston's* Translation of the Psalms revived in so elegant a Manner, and adorned with such a just and learned Display of its inimitable Beauties. As we flatter ourselves that the Character we gave it in our first Volume of the *Universal History*, did in some Measure contribute to it, we hope, that in Justice to that great Poet, you will permit us to cast the following Mites into your Treasury of critical Notes on his noble Version. We always thought the Palm by far this Author's due, as upon many other Accounts, so especially for two Excellencies hitherto not taken notice of by any Critic, that we know of, and which we beg Leave to transmit to you, and if you think fit, by you to the Public, in the following Observations.

We beg Leave to subscribe ourselves,

S I R, &c.

The Authors of the UNIVERSAL HISTORY.  
Dr.



*Dr. Isaac Watts, D. D. in his late Book, entitled, The Improvement of the Mind, Lond. 1741, p. 114.*

UPON the whole Survey of Things, it is my Opinion, that for almost all Boys who learn this Tongue [the *Latin*], it would be much safer to be taught *Latin Poesy* (as soon, and as far as they can need it) from those excellent Translations of *David's Psalms*, which are given us by *Buchanan* in the various Measures of *Horace*; and the lower Classes had better read *Dr. Johnstons* Translation of those Psalms, another elegant Writer of the *Scots* Nation, instead of *Ovid's Epistles*; for he has turned the same Psalms, perhaps with greater Elegancy, into Elegiac Verse, whereof the learned *W. Benson, Esq.* has lately publish'd a new Edition, and I hear that these Psalms are honour'd with an encreasing Use in the Schools of *Holland* and *Scotland*. A Stanza, or a Couplet of those Writers would now and then stick upon the Minds of Youth, and would furnish them infinitely better with pious and moral Thoughts, and do something towards making them good Men and Christians.

*An Act of the Commission of the General Assembly of the Kirk of Scotland, recommending Dr. Arthur Johnstons Latin Paraphrase of the Psalms of David, &c.*

*At Edinburgh, 13th of November, 1740. post meridiem.*

A Petition having been presented to the late General Assembly, by *Mr. William Lauder, Teacher of Humanity in Edinburgh*, craving, That *Dr. Arthur Johnstons* Latin Paraphrase on the Psalms of *David*, and *Mr. Robert Boyd of Trochrig* his *Hecatombe Christiana*, may be recommended to be taught in all Grammar-schools; and the Assembly having appointed a Committee of their Number to take the Desire of the foresaid Petition into their Consideration, and report to the Commission: The said Committee offered their Opinion, that the Commission should grant the Desire of the said Petition, and recommend the said *Dr. Johnstons* Paraphrase to be taught in the lower Classes of the Schools, and *Mr. George Buchanan's* Paraphrase on the Psalms, together with *Mr. Robert Boyd of Trochrig's Hecatombe Christiana*.

*Christiana* in the higher Classes of Schools, and Humanity-Classes in Universities. THE COMMISSION having heard the said Report, unanimously approved thereof, and did, and hereby do recommend accordingly. Extracted by

William Grant, \* Cl. Ecl. Sc.

A LETTER from the Learned Mr. Abraham Gronovius, Secretary to the University of Leyden, to Mr. Lauder, concerning the *Adamus Exsul* of Grotius.

Clarissimo Viro, Wilhelmo Laudero, Abrahamus Gronovius, S. P. D.

POSTquam binæ literæ tuæ ad me perlatae fuerunt, duas editiones carminum *H. Grotii*, viri vere summi, excussi; verum ab utraque Tragœdiam, quam *Adamum Exsulem* inscripsit Ἰάννου, abesse deprehendi; neque ullum ejusdem exemplar, quamvis tres editiones exstare adnotaveram, ullibi offendere potui, adeo ut spe, quam vorabam desiderio Tuo satisfaciendi, me prorsus excidisse existimarem.

Verum nuperrime fortè contigit, ut primam *Tragœdiæ Grotianæ* editionem, *Hagæ*, An. 1601. publicatam, beneficio amicissimi mihi Viri nactus fuerim; ejusque decem priores paginas, quibus præter chorum actus primus comprehenditur, a Jacobo meo, optimæ spei adolescente, transcriptas nunc ad Te mitto. Vale vir Doctissime, meque ut facis amare perge. Dabam Lugd. Bat. A. D. IV. Eid. Sept. A. D. MDCCLVI.

A Second LETTER from the same Gentleman to Mr. Lauder, on the same Subject.

Clarissime atque Eruditissime Vir!

POSTeaquam tandem Jacobus meus residuam partem, quam desiderabas, *Tragœdiæ Grotianæ* transcripserat, ut eâ diutius careres, committere nolui: quod autem citius illam ad finem

\* This honourable Gentleman is now his Majesty's Advocate for Scotland.

† Though *Gronovius* here mentions only three Editions of this noble and curious Performance, the *Adamus Exsul* of Grotius; yet it appears from the Catalogue of his Works, that no fewer than four have been printed, two in Quarto, and two in Octavo, in the Years 1601, 1608, and 1635; two having been made, one in Quarto, the other in Octavo, Anno 1601.



perducere non potuerit, obstitērunt variæ occupationes, quibus districtus fuit. Nam præter scholastica studia, quibus strenuè incubuit, ipsi componenda erat Oratio, qua rudimenta linguæ Græcæ Latinæque deponeret, eamque, quod vehementer lætor, venustè, & quidem stilo ligato, composuit, & in magna auditorum corona pronuntiavit. Quod autem ad exemplar ipsum, quo *Adamus Exsul* comprehenditur, spectat, id lubens, si meum foret, ad te perferri curarem, verùm illud a Clarissimo Possessore tanti æstimatur, ut persuasum habeam me istud minimè ab ipso impetraturum : & sane sacra carmina *Grotii* adeo rarè obvia sunt, ut eorundem exemplar apud ipsos *Remonstrantium* Ecclesiastas frustra quæsierim.

Opus ipsum inscriptum est HENRICO BORBONIO, PRINCIPI CONDÆO; & forma libri est in quarto, ut nullo pacto literis includi possit. Ceterùm, pro splendidissima & Magnæ Britanniae Principe, cui meritiò dicata est, digna Editione Psalmorum, ex Versione metrica *omnium ferè Poëtarum Principis JONSTONI* maximas tibi grates habet agitque Jacobus. Utinam Illustrissimus *Bensonus* in usum Serenissimi Principis, atque ingeniorum in altiora surgentium, eadem formâ, iisdemque typis exarari juberet divinos illos Ciceronis de Officiis libros, dignos sane, quos diurnâ nocturnæque manu versaret Princeps, a quo aliquando Britannici regni majestas & populi salus pendebunt ! Interim tibi, eruditissime Vir, atque etiam polittissimo D. *Caveo*, pro muneribus literariis, quæ per nobilissimum *Lawsonium* \* ad me curâstis, magno opere me obstrictum agnosco, eademque summa cum voluntate a me perlecta sunt.

Filius meus te plurimùm salutat.

Vale Doctissime vir, meisque verbis D. *Caveum* saluta, atque amare perge,

Tuum,

Dabam Leidis, A. D. xiv. Kal.

Majas, A. D. MDCCLVII.

ABRAHAMUM GRONOVIVM.

\* The Person here meant was the learned and worthy Dr. *Isaac Lawson*, late Physician to the *English Army in Flanders*; by whom Mr. *Gronovius* did me the Honour to transmit to me two or three AEs of the *Adamus Exsul* of *Grotius*, transcrib'd by his son Mr. *James*. The Truth of this Particular consists perfectly well with the Knowledge of the Doctor's Brother, *John Lawson*, Esq; Counsellor at Law; who also had the same Thing lately confirm'd to him by Mr. *Gronovius* himself in *Holland*.

## P O S T S C R I P T.

AND now my Character is plac'd above all Suspicion of Fraud by authentick Documents, I'll make bold at last to pull off the Mask, and declare sincerely the true Motive that induc'd me to interpolate a few Lines into some of the Authors quoted by me in my Essay on *Milton*, which was this: Knowing the Prepossession in Favour of *Milton*, how deeply it was rooted in many, I was willing to make Trial, if the partial Admirers of that Author would admit a Translation of his own Words to pass for his Sense, or exhibit his Meaning: which I thought they would not: Nor was I mistaken in my Conjecture, so much as several Gentlemen, seemingly Persons of Judgment and Learning, assur'd me, they humbly conceiv'd I had not prov'd my Point, and that *Milton* might have written as he has done, supposing he had never seen these Authors, or they had never existed. Such is the Force of Prejudice! This exactly confirms the judicious Observation of the excellent Moralist and Poet:

*Provo favore labi mortales solent*

*Et pro judicio dum stant erroris jux*

*Ad poenitendum rebus manifestis agi.*

For had I design'd (as the Vindicator of *Milton* supposes) to impose a Trick on the Publick, and procure Credit to my Assertions by an Imposture, I would never have drawn Lines from *Hog's* Translation of *Milton*, a Book common at every Sale, I had almost said at every Stall, nor ascrib'd them to Authors so easily attain'd: I would have gone another Way to work, by translating forty or fifty Lines, and assigning them to an Author, whose Works possibly might not be found till the World expire at the general Conflagration. My imposing therefore on the Publick in General, instead of a few obstinate Persons (for whose Sake alone the Stratagem was design'd) is the only Thing culpable in my Conduct, for which again I most humbly ask Pardon: And that this, and this only was, as no other could be, my Design, no one I think can doubt, from the Account I have just now given; and whether that was so criminal, as it has been represented, I shall leave every impartial Mind to determine.

F I N I S.

-ERRATUM. In Page 13, Line 10. in the Notes for 1749 read 1747.